



Winter Trail Access and Condition Update April 9th – April 20th, 2021

Spring Trail Highlights

- Warm spring weather has greatly diminished the snowpack and, in some areas, made for challenging conditions. Most area SnoParks still have adequate coverage but some are showing significant bare ground. What snow is there can be described as heavily condensed with a surface layer going through freeze thaw. Expect firm conditions in the cool part of the day. See inside for more details.
- Volunteer trail grooming has concluded for the winter season. Over snow recreation is allowed where there is adequate snow depth.
- Most summer trails are under at least some snow. Many are wet and muddy. To avoid damage to the trail tread and corridor, please DO NOT USE wet and muddy trails. See inside for more details.
- WILDERNESS PERMITS WILL BE REQUIRED from 19 trailheads for day use and all trailheads for overnight use in the Mt Jefferson, Mt Washington and Three Sisters wildernesses from May 28 to September 24, 2021. For more information, see inside on Page 4, just above “Summer Trail Conditions Report.”
- TRAIL CLOSURE in effect for multiple trails between Forest Road 4615 and Skyliner Road, including Lower Whoops, Pine Drops, EXT, and portions of Phil’s and Storm King, due to thinning operations.
- Snowmobiles are not allowed in the Three Sisters Wilderness, Bend City Watershed, or the “Dutchalo” closure areas. It is the visitor’s responsibility to know where they are.



FS volunteer installing new junction sign on the Swamp Wells trail. The FS relies heavily on volunteers to help maintain our trail system and make fun experiences possible for the public. Please thank them if you see a volunteer on the trail.



Recent photo showing a sign that marks the Bend Municipal Watershed. Boundary signs like this mark motorized and non-motorized closure areas across the Forest. However, not all boundaries are marked and it is up to the visitor to know where they are.

SnoPark Conditions Table Coding:

Special area restrictions or notations relating to the table below are as follows:

- 1 = Area/trails closed to dogs except working dogs in harness on groomed snowmobile trails and only with a permit**
- 2 = Area open to dogs**
- 3 = Area/trails closed to motorized use**
- 4 = Vehicles with trailers limited to 40' overall length**
- 5 = High to extreme use with special area/trail restrictions, see sno-park information board, trail maps and area signing for full details. Very limited parking, try to avoid on weekends and holidays.**

Deschutes National Forest SnoPark Trail Conditions

Last Updated: April 9th, 2021

General snow conditions: Marginal, with adequate coverage at most, but not all, SnoParks. Expect hard pack conditions when it's cool, softening during warm periods. No significant snow in the forecast.

****Conditions subject to change without notice and at whim of nature.****

SNO-PARK NAME Designated trails or activities with numerical notations explained above	LOCATION Hwy or Road and milepost	PARK ELEV.	APPROX. SNOW DEPTH TOTAL	SNOW CONDITIONS AND SPECIAL COMMENTS (Conditions subject to change without notice and at the whim of nature)
Meissner 1 5 Ski/snowshoe	HWY 46, MP 14	5,350'	4-24"	Marginal conditions. No more grooming this season. Meissner Lodge currently closed.
Wanoga Snow Play 2 3 5 Tubing/sledding Groomed ski/dog trails	HWY 46, MP 15	5,400'	16-30"	Marginal conditions. Expect consistent heavy use. Pack home broken sleds and all trash. Shelter currently closed.
Wanoga Snowmobile 2 Snowmobiling	HWY 46, MP 15	5,500'	16-30"	Marginal conditions. No more grooming this season. Shelter currently closed.
Swampy 1 3 Ski/snowshoe	HWY 46, MP 16	5,800'	24-42"	Fair conditions. No dogs.



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Vista Butte 1 3 Ski/snowshoe	HWY 46, MP 18	5,950'	30-54"	Marginal conditions. No dogs. Area north of parking area closed to snowmobiles, use Kapka Butte or Wanoga.
Dutchman 1 4 5 Ski/shoe/snowmobiling	HWY 46, MP 22	6,250'	54-84"	Good conditions. Limited parking/no overnight camping. 40' max length limit for vehicle/trailer combination. Expect heavy use all the time!
Kapka Butte 2 Snowmobiling/ski/shoe	¼ mi. south of Hwy 46, on Road 45	5,900'	30-54"	Marginal conditions.
Edison 2 Ski/shoe/snowmobiling	4 mi. south of Hwy 46 on Road 45	5,000'	0-30"	Marginal conditions.
Skyliner 2 Ski/snowshoe	Skyliner Rd MP 9	4,700'	UNK	Gate/road to Tumalo Falls is closed for the season. Road is ski/snowshoe trail.
Six Mile 2 Snowmobiling	Road 21, MP 6 East of Hwy 97	4,400'	0-6"	Poor conditions due to low snow.
Ten Mile 2 Snowmobile/ski/shoe	Road 21, MP 10 East of Hwy 97	5,560'	9-24"	Marginal conditions. Low snow around SnoPark.
Lower Three Creek 2 Snowmobile/Ski	Road 16, MP 8	4,400'	0-6"	Poor conditions due to low snow.
Upper Three Creek 2 Snowmobile/ski/shoe	Road 16, MP 11	5,250'	0-10"	Poor conditions. Significant bare pavement on Trail 8 above SnoPark. Not recommended.
Ray Benson Snomobile/ski/shoe	Hwy 20, near Hoodoo Ski Area	4,800'	50-60"	Fair conditions. Expect heavy use.
Hwy 242 (Mckenzie Pass) Snomobile/ski/shoe	Hwy 242, MP 7 from Sisters	3,800'	UNK	Hwy closed to summer access. Parking area may not be plowed.
Crescent Junction 2 Snowmobiling	Hwy 58/Road 60 MP 1/2	4,750'	2-12"	Poor conditions with low snow. Not recommended.
Crescent Lake 2 Snowmobiling/BC (no ski/snowshoe trails)	Hwy 58/Road 60 MP 2	4,700'	2-12"	Poor conditions with low snow. Not recommended.
Walt Haring 2 Snowmobile/ski trails	Hwy 97, Between MP 202 and 203, north of Chemult, off FR 9772	4,800'	0-4"	Poor conditions with low snow. Not recommended.



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For more information on winter trail grooming and maintenance, go to:

- **Meissner Nordic Club** - Ski trail grooming at Meissner – <http://www.meissnernordic.org/>
- **Central Oregon Nordic Club** - Ski/snowshoe trail maintenance on most area blue diamond trails - <http://conordicclub.org/new/>
- **DogPac** - Grooming/maintenance on ski trails open to dogs out of Wanoga Snow Play Sno-Park - <http://dogpac.org/>
- **Moon Country Snowbusters and Sisters Sno-Go-Fers Snowmobile Clubs** - Wanoga to Sisters area trail grooming – <https://mcsnowbusters.wixsite.com/website>
- **La Pine Lodgepole Dodgers Snowmobile Club** – Newberry National Volcanic Monument area trails - <http://www.lapinedodgerssnow.org/default.aspx>
- **Walker Rim Riders Snowmobile Club** - Crescent area - <http://www.walkerrimriders.com/page125235.aspx>
- **Mt. Jefferson Snowmobile Club** - Santiam Pass area - <http://www.mtjefferson.org/>
- **COTA Winter Fat Bike Trail Grooming** - out of Wanoga Snow Play Sno-Park, for the 2019-20 winter season as snow conditions allow.

WINTER MAP DOWNLOADS ON iPhone, ANDROID OR TABLET:

Using GPS, the Avenza Maps app works on your iPhone, Android or tablet to show your location on a map you have downloaded. You will need the Avenza Maps app on your device, which is free to download. Once the app is installed on your phone, go to...

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/deschutes/maps-pubs/?cid=STELPRDB5408820>

...to download PDF winter maps directly.

WILDERNESS PERMITS:

Beginning this summer, Wilderness permits will be required from 19 trailheads for day use and all trailheads for overnight use in the Mt Jefferson, Mt Washington and Three Sisters wildernesses from May 28 to September 24, 2021. Annually the permit season will begin the Friday before Memorial Day and ends the last Friday in September. Go to our website to learn more-

[Willamette National Forest - Home \(usda.gov\)](#)



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How do I get a permit?

All permit reservations must be made on **Recreation.gov** either on-line or over the phone. Go to Recreation.gov and put "Central Cascades Wilderness" in the search and all options will show.

Permit reservations open on Tuesday, April 6th, 2021 at 7 a.m. for this year's season. Every year the reservation period will open on the first Tuesday in April.

Deschutes National Forest Summer Trail Conditions

Last Updated: April 9th, 2021

****ALL SUMMER TRAILS ARE UNDER SNOW/INACCESSIBLE, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED BELOW****

Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District

- ❖ **Phil's Area Trails** – Mix of snow, mud and ice. Please do not ride on muddy trails. Several trails in the area will be CLOSED for visitor safety while contractors conduct thinning operations. Lower Whoops, Pine Drops, EXT, Storm King from the junction with Forest Road 4615 and the junction with Phil's Trail, and the western-most portion of Phil's between the junction with EXT (near Forest Road 300) and it's western terminus at the junction with Pine Drops will be closed from Monday at 12am until Friday at 3pm. Outside these hours, the trails will all be open. E-Bikes are NOT allowed on any non-motorized trails. For more information on COTA, go to: <http://cotamtb.com/>
- ❖ **Deschutes River Trail** – Snow free and clear. Northwest Forest Passes are required for parking in posted NWFP locations. Iron Ranger fee stations are available at: Meadow Picnic, Road 41 and Hwy 46 junction, Benham East and Lava Lands "After Hours Parking Lot" (Black Rock TH).
- ❖ **Sun Lava Paved Path** - Between Sunriver, Benham East and Lava Lands (Trailhead access points at south end of Lava Lands parking lot, Benham East or Circle 7 in Sunriver). Patchy snow. Heavy use on weekends.
- ❖ **Sunriver Mountain Bike Trails** – Wintry mix.
- ❖ **Lava Lands Trails** – Patchy snow and ice. Visitor Center is closed for the season. Trails and trailhead parking remain open.
- ❖ **Tumalo Creek 2 Trail** – Likely patchy snow. Hiker only.
- ❖ **Fall River Trail** – Likely mix of mud and snow.
- ❖ **Horse Butte to Swamp Wells area trails** – Arnold Ice Cave and Coyote reported as dry at the time of this writing. Downfall has been reported on the Swamp Wells trail. Snow on upper portions, above approx. 4500 ft. Snow free and dry down low.



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- ❖ **Peter Skene Ogden Trail** – Likely patch snow and mud. Ogden Group Camp trailhead is **CLOSED** for creek restoration work until further notice.
- ❖ **Lava Cast Forest Trailhead** – Likely patchy snow. NWFP required!
- ❖ **Hoffman Island Trailhead** – Likely patchy snow.

Sisters Ranger District:

- ❖ **Black Butte** – Deep snow.
- ❖ **Metolius River Trails** – Snow free with downfall reported.
- ❖ **Suttle Lake Trail** – Snow free and clear.
- ❖ **Lake Creek Trail** – Snow free and clear.
- ❖ **Whychus Creek** – Snow free and clear. **Please, stay on the main designated trail and avoid using posted and closed social trails in restoration sections.**
- ❖ **Whychus Overlook Trail** (barrier free, closed to stock and bikes) – Snow free and clear. Please stay on designated trails. Enjoy the newly constructed vault toilet!
- ❖ **Peterson Ridge Trails** – Snow free and clear. Check out the new trailhead on FR 16!

APRIL SPECIAL TRAIL EVENTS:

Who knows? Not me.

SEASONAL ROAD CLOSURES/OPENINGS:

Hwy 46	CLOSED at West Village.
FR 370	CLOSED for the winter season.
Tumalo Falls Road (FR 4603)	CLOSED for the winter season.
FR 21	CLOSED (at Ten Mile SnoPark) for the winter season.
Hwy 242	CLOSED until June.
FR 16	CLOSED at Upper Three Creeks SnoPark.
FR 60	CLOSED for the winter season.

“LEAVE NO TRACE” REMINDER:



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PLEASE, PRACTICE THE SEVEN LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPALS:

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Dispose of Waste Properly

Leave What You Find

Minimize Campfire Impacts

Respect Wildlife

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

For details on the 7 LNT Principals: <http://lnt.org/learn/7-principles>

TEN ESSENTIAL SYSTEMS:

For details on the “Ten Essential **Systems**”:

http://www.rei.com/expertadvice/articles/ten+essentials.html?s_kwcid=TC|13029|ten%20essentials||S|p|7499840765&cm_mmc=ps_google_CH-_-Category%20-%20Camp%2fHike-_-Camping%2fHiking_GeneralTerms_Essentials-_-ten%20essentials&gclid=CNq_h8Xbsq4CFQN8hwodYhH-PQ

For further information on Deschutes National Forest winter or summer trails, please call:

Deschutes National Forest Headquarters: (541) 383-5300

Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District: (541) 383-4000

Sisters Ranger District: (541) 549-7700

Crescent Ranger District: (541) 433-3200

Find this weekly trail access and condition report on the Deschutes National Forest Website at:

http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5299503.pdf

Other trail access and conditions information can be found at:

<https://bendtrails.org/>

Central Oregon Off Hwy Vehicle Program:

http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5340950.pdf

Prineville BLM: <https://www.blm.gov/tag/prineville-district-office>